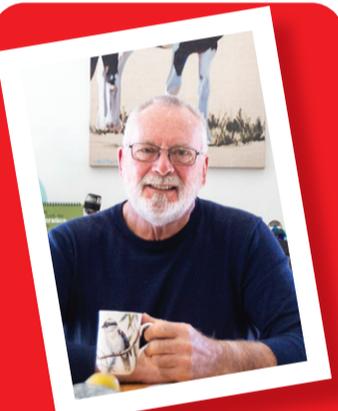


established 1895
Numurkah LEADER
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3, 2020 \$1.30

INSIDE



Seeing double
See story page 3



A Cuppa with John
See story page 12



THE Numurkah Agricultural and Pastoral Society (A&P) committee has regrettably announced that the COVID-19 pandemic has achieved what only world wars have been able to achieve before it - the cancellation of the annual Numurkah show...Story page 3



Numurkah Secondary College
Our Kids, Our Community, Our School

Don't miss your chance to enrol for 2021.

**Can I trust you? Do you believe I can succeed?
Do you care about me?**

At NSC we are proud to celebrate our staff team members as positive role models who lead by example. Our teachers and support staff are always willing to assist students with their learning, social and emotional needs, we are aware of our students' various learning styles and ongoing learning requirements. Our teachers and support staff have high expectations of each other and of our students and frequently provide students with constructive feedback about their learning and growth. We look forward to welcoming you!



2021 Scholarships now available: see NSC Facebook for details

PETER COX & SONS FUNERAL DIRECTORS

Professional service tailored to your needs

Locally owned & operated 24 hours - 7 days a week

Funeral calls and information
5862 3047

Cnr Meiklejohn & Quinn Streets

ACCREDITED MEMBER OF THE AUSTRALIAN FUNERAL DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION

Meals on Wheels Roster

	Rnd 1	Rnd 2	Rnd 3
M 8/6	F. Booth	M. Caccianiga	Lions Club of Numurkah
T 9/6	M. Crowther-Harris	Numurkah Sec College	V. Bunny
W 10/6	R. Kennett	C. North C. Boldt	R. & C. Hardham
T 11/6	W. Kight	K. Moodie	Diverse Builders
F 12/6	G. Watson R. Wright	Rotary Club of Numurkah	C. & K. Cole

Coordinator - MHA Care Phone 5742 1111

Should winter sport go ahead?

EVEN though winter has, technically, just begun, under normal circumstances we would be deep into the winter sport season by now.

Although social distancing restrictions have eased significantly in recent weeks, with most

football and netball clubs in local leagues not even having started training yet, a return to play is still, at best, at least a month away.

Even then, with spectator numbers likely to be severely limited, and many other elements of a

normal game-day still up in the air, a huge question mark hangs over the 2020 season.

This week, we took to Melville Street to ask locals if, given all of the above, they think it's viable for the 2020 football, netball, soccer and hockey seasons to go ahead at all.



Russ Blake

It's been my opinion since the start of all of this that they should scrap this season and start again in 2021.

They are starting way too late, and with the limited training they could get in, they will have too many injuries. For what it costs to put the games on, I don't think it would be worth it for just a few months.



Kerri McGraw

I don't know anything about sport really, but it doesn't seem like it would be worth it for this year now. I know that there'll be a lot of unhappy people if they can't get any kind of season in, but I just don't see how they could make it work starting this late.



Nathan Lidtone

I think it's too late to start now. It's hard but you can't do much about it. It would be good for the players to be able to get some games in at least, but it only takes one person to have the virus and then it would be everywhere. I don't think it's worth the risk.



Emma Schmedje

I think they should forget about it for this year. I know that would upset a lot of people, but there are too many grey areas, and I think for the safety of everyone they need to let it go.



Zach Dellar

Yeah, I think they should definitely start it back up. All the kids are bored and they want to play sport. Everyone's bored and it would give people something to do and something to look forward to.



Koryn Karner

It's already the start of June, there's really no point starting now. They may as well just wait for next season I think.

NumurkahLEADER

Public holiday advertising deadlines

Due to next Monday being a public holiday, all copy for display advertising should be submitted no later than 12 noon on Friday, June 5 for next Wednesday's (June 10) edition.

The deadline for classified advertising will remain 12 noon Tuesday, but early copy would be appreciated.

Body found at Katamatite believed to be missing man

A BODY found at Katamatite last Tuesday is believed to be that of missing man Simranjeet Singh Bhullar.

27 year-old Mr Bhullar was last seen at an address at Campbell's Road, Cobram, at around 9pm on April 30. His vehicle was found at the intersection of Campbell Road and Powerline Road, Muckatah, on May 5.

Numurkah SES and local police members were among a group of searchers, which also included Victoria Police search and rescue, mounted police and the special solo unit, that conducted an extensive search of the Cobram South, Katamatite, Katamatite East and Muckatah areas early last week.

The body, which was found on a farming property, has not been formally identified, and the matter is now before the coroner.

Manager Moira LGA, Senior Sergeant Darren McGrillen, thanked everyone for their support during the search for Mr Bhullar, especially the SES volunteers whose skills and tenacity led to police locating the deceased.

A matter for the coroner ...

A body found on a Katamatite farming property last week is believed to be that of missing man Simranjeet Singh Bhullar.



Tools stolen from shed

POLICE BEAT

SEVERAL power tools were stolen from a property at Katamatite last Thursday, after at least one offender jumped a fence and entered the open rear shed. Anybody with information about the theft is asked to contact the Katamatite police station.

Police are reminding residents to lock their vehicles, with increased evidence that offenders are looking for keys left in vehicles.

Police said that leaving keys anywhere in an unlocked vehicle - including behind the visor, under floor mats, etc. - is an invitation for offenders to steal your vehicle.

Offenders are particularly targeting tradesmen's vehicles during the late evening and early hours of the morning and stealing expensive power tools.

Police said most of these thefts have been an easy opportunity to the thieves, as vehicles and trailers have been left unlocked in driveways after hours.

To avoid becoming a victim, you should ensure that your vehicle or trailer is locked and secured when left unattended. It is also important to ensure all of your power tools are engraved with your licence number so they can be returned to you quickly in the event they are stolen and recovered by police.

FIREWATCH

Two false alarms last weekend

LOCAL brigades responded to two call-outs last weekend, neither of which required their services.

Numurkah and Katunga brigades, along with Shepparton aerial pumper, were called to a reported structure fire in Exhibition St Numurkah, between Queen Street and Diggora Parade at 1.05pm on Saturday.

The occupier was cleaning up in the

back yard and had a small fire; the fire brigade was not required. Katunga and Shepparton were stopped enroute.

At 9.15am on Sunday, Strathmerton and Yarroweyah brigades responded to assist Cobram at an alarm at Merriwa Grove, Warkil Street, Cobram. Cobram reported there was no fire, and Strathmerton and Yarroweyah were stopped enroute.

NumurkahLEADER

88 Melville Street, Numurkah VIC 3636

Phone: 03 5862 1034

www.numurkahleader.net.au



Beverley Hutchins
Editor



James Sutton
Graphic Designer



Dominique Cosgriff
Journalist



Heather Kelly
Sales



Karen Harper
Sports Journalist



Sheryl Elliott
Sports Photographer

printads@leader.net.au

design@leader.net.au

editorial@leader.net.au

sales@leader.net.au

sport@leader.net.au

Twins times two equals double delight

LIFE has been quite the roller-coaster for Bernadette and Glenn Caccianiga recently.

Not only did the couple welcome twins into their life in the middle of a pandemic - it is their second set of twins in three and a half years.

Brooke and Samuel came into the world 16 days ago, joining big sisters Sophie and April, making for a busy household.

Bernadette said that neither she or Glenn could quite believe it when they were told they were expecting twins again.

"To say we were shocked is a bit of an understatement," Bernadette laughs.

"There are twins on my mum's side of the family, but to have two sets is pretty extraordinary.

"We found out at six weeks, but I had half expected it because I had been sick since four weeks. It doesn't really make sense, because with the girls I didn't get sick at all until 15 weeks, but I just kind of had this suspicion this time around."

Bernadette said the couple was as prepared as they could be for the arrival of a second set of twins, but the pandemic situation made the time much more stressful.

"It had to all be scheduled, because one of the twins was breech and they had to schedule it so we had enough doctors and nurses for a twin birth with breech," she said.

"A week before the scheduled date they pushed it back a week, so that made it hard, because you are quite keyed up for that date."

Still, as hard as the uncertainty was, Bernadette said the hardest part was that initially, due to pandemic restrictions, Glenn wasn't going to be allowed in the delivery room.

"I was more stressed about that than anything else, but he was allowed in in the end."

The restrictions did prevent the new arrivals receiving visitors in the hospital, which was hard for everybody, but



Absolutely adorable ... Proud big sisters Sophie and April Caccianiga cuddle their new siblings Samuel and Brooke.
Photo: Polly Wright Photography

especially the eager big sisters.

"Pandemic restrictions are very hard to explain to three year-olds and they were just dying to meet their new brother and sister," Bernadette said.

As challenging as caring for four small people under the age of four can be, Bernadette said there is one 'twin issue' she

is glad she won't have to deal with.

"None of them are identical, which I'm really pleased about. Things are full-on enough without having to make sure you're talking to the right child.

"The girls are actually great little helpers and they love the babies so much.

"I think it's actually lucky we have

two babies, because otherwise they'd be fighting over cuddles."

Out of an abundance of caution, Bernadette and Glenn are not having visitors to the house until after the babies have had their six week immunisations. But they did make one exception last week. Photographer Polly Wright visited them for a special pho-

to-shoot of all the siblings, and provided the *Leader* with the gorgeous image below.

As for the suggestion that she could one day be the mother to three sets of twins, Bernadette nips that idea in the bud pretty quickly.

"No way, I am never getting pregnant again. Knowing my luck I'd have triplets!"

Show cancelled for first time in peace time

THE Numurkah Agricultural and Pastoral Society (A&P) committee has regretfully announced that the COVID-19 pandemic has achieved what only world wars have been able to achieve before it - the cancellation of the annual Numurkah show.

A&P secretary Sue Aldridge said, given the uncertainty regarding how long the current situation will endure, the committee had no choice but to cancel the show, which was due to be held on Wednesday, October 21.

"The most important consideration was everyone's health, and due to there not being a vaccine, and the virus being very easily spread, it really was enough to cancel the show there and then," she said.

"That's even without the fact that over 80% of our volunteers, judges and competitors are over 70 years old."

Ms Aldridge said another major consideration was the significant financial impact the current crisis has had on local businesses.

"The whole population has suffered

from the serious effects of the shutdown, and, as such, the wonderful financial support we usually get from every one of our local businesses is just not available," she said.

"This year the society could not expect our local businesses and people to contribute the large amount of money and vouchers usually put forward so generously."

Ms Aldridge said the committee had researched and investigated all ways it might run a show this year and satisfy all government regulations, health concerns and financial constraints, but realised it just couldn't be done.

"We still have no idea whether we would be able to conduct our show with whatever government regulations are in place on that date anyway," she said.

"We may not be able to have more than 200-300 spectators, everyone must maintain social distancing, names and addresses must be collected, and we don't know whether many people would attend and risk catching

the virus."

Ms Aldridge said that, even if the committee had decided to push ahead with a show this year, it would likely have to have gone ahead without some of its most popular attractions.

"Sideshow attractions have been hard hit with lockdowns, so we faced the possibility of having no entertainment, and the wonderful dog show we have every year is in doubt because of the number of over 70 year-olds that make up its nucleus.

"We couldn't justify trying to conduct a show under those conditions, so we decided to put all of our efforts into the 2021 show, and hope that the COVID-19 virus will not pose such a problem then.

"We are so sorry to have to break this sad news, but we are sure that everyone will understand and look forward, as we are, to next year's show."

The Numurkah show joins many other regional shows, including Nathalia's, that have been cancelled as a result of the COVID-19 crisis.



Gates to stay closed in October ... Members of the A&P society were excited for the show last year, but not so in 2020.

WHAT'S ON AT NUMURKAH GOLF AND BOWLS CLUB

DINING SESSIONS Commencing on Friday 5th June

Two booking times available **Friday, Saturday & Sunday evenings only**

6pm or 7pm only

Maximum of patrons per dining time is 20 people

BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL 5862 3445

We appreciate assisting our staff with the Covid-19 health regulations when dining at Numurkah Golf & Bowls Club Inc



Numurkah Golf & Bowls Club Inc.
phone 5862 3445



Latest Information



For the most up-to-date information regarding COVID-19 please go to our website or www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/coronavirus

ECONOMIC SUPPORT

The COVID-19 Financial Hardship Policy is just one of many initiatives we are putting in place and will apply to all rateable properties in Moira Shire.

We are not charging user fees to sporting clubs that use municipal land and buildings whose seasons are affected.

We have also waived the rent for the June quarter on enterprises that operate from Council-owned or managed land.

We understand these are tough times, please give us a call on 5871 9222 if you would like to chat about your situation, we can work together to see what options are available.



COUNCIL MEETING UPDATES

CEO Employment Matters

A Committee of Council meeting will be held TODAY, Wednesday 3 June, in the Councillor Briefing Room at the Cobram Service Centre to discuss CEO Employment Matters beginning at 4.30pm.

Items to be discussed in this meeting are confidential and it will be closed to the public.

Budget Submissions

A Committee of Council meeting will be held TODAY, Wednesday 3 June, in the Councillor Briefing Room at the Cobram Service Centre beginning at 5pm to hear people who indicated they wished to speak to their draft 2020/21 Budget submission.

This meeting will be conducted via Zoom and will be streamed live on Council's Facebook page.

All submissions will be on public display for the following 12 months.

PLAYGROUNDS UPDATE

Under guidance from the Department of Health and Human Services, we have now opened our playgrounds, outdoor gym equipment and skate parks throughout the shire. These areas are used by a variety of people and it is simply not possible to clean the equipment after each use so it is vitally important we all exercise good hygiene practices before, during and after using this equipment.

Please maintain your physical distancing and keep 1.5m apart and ensure your group sizes are less than 10 people.

To keep up to date with all the latest COVID-19 news go to our website.



COBRAM CUSTOMER SERVICE CENTRE TO REOPEN

We will be reopening the Customer Service Centre in Cobram from Tuesday 9 June.

The opening hours will be restricted to 10am – 3pm and be for payments and general inquiries only.

We have strict guidelines in place to maintain the health and wellbeing of our team and our community.

- Please stay home if you are feeling unwell
- Please maintain your physical distancing by keeping 1.5m apart
- There is a maximum of 4 customers allowed inside the Customer Service area at one time
- Please use the hand sanitiser provided.

The Yarrowonga Customer Service Centre will remain closed until further notice. There are still multiple ways to contact us – by phone, by email or by going to our website.



Reconciliation Week 27 May – 3 June

The competition to celebrate Reconciliation Week is still open. Design a poster or download the book 'Loving Moira's Natives' from our website and colour in some of the wonderful images. Send your finished artwork to info@moira.vic.gov.au, along with your first name, for a chance to be a part of a special online exhibition.



Two decades strong ... Moira Palliative Care volunteers and staff (from left) Marita Crowther-Harris, Tarnya Hamilton, Heather Rice, Rachel O'Dywer, Debra Morland, Kathryn Watson, Kim Kirkham and Christine Ginnane celebrate 20 years of the service.

Moira Palliative Care celebrates 20 years

MOIRA Palliative Care celebrated 20 years of service to the Moira shire this month, with an afternoon tea and "virtual get together" over Zoom at NCN Health Numurkah campus last Wednesday.

The milestone coincided with Palliative Care Week, which runs from May 25 – 29.

Moira Palliative Care clinical nurse specialist, Heather Rice, said the service had hoped to host a community event to thank staff and volunteers past and present, but was unable to due to restrictions around COVID-19.

"We have worked with, cared for and befriended many beautiful people and colleagues over the last 20 years. We had hoped to bring more of them together to celebrate with us," she said.

Mrs Rice said it was 20 years ago in May 2000, that Moira Palliative Care Service began.

"The vision was for a Hume Region Palliative Care, to have five sites to outreach to rural areas; Moira, Lower Hume, Benalla, Wangaratta and Wodonga."

Mrs Rice, who has been with Moira Palliative Care since the beginning, along with colleague and administration officer Debra Morland, said the early days were challenging.

"We had limited support from visiting palliative care specialists, but we were fortunate to have access to nurse consultants Coral Marks and Sue Salau," Mrs Rice said.

"They were both great pioneers and mentors." The much-needed service quickly grew, and Moira Palliative Care was soon able to support the community five days per week.

Twenty years on, Moira Palliative Care has a dedicated team that includes three clinical nurse specialists, a bereavement support worker, social worker, occupational therapist, administration support and volunteers. The service also has dis-

trict nurses in each town to help support patients and families.

Mrs Rice said Moira Palliative Care also benefited from the expertise provided by St Vincent's palliative care physicians and the palliative care consultancy team, based at GV Health.

"Dr Siva, our local palliative care physician, and his team of clinical nurse consultants provide clinics for our clients who have complex needs and require additional care and support."

Mrs Rice said from very humble beginnings the team was very proud of what Moira Palliative Care Service has achieved.

"The highlight of our service is making a difference, no matter how big or small, to our patients and families. We look forward to many more years of providing support and care to our community," she said.

"Thank you to everyone, past and present, who has been part of the Moira Palliative Care Service."

NCN Health CEO Jacque Phillips congratulated the staff and volunteers on 20 years of achievement.

"The previous Numurkah District Health Service, now NCN Health, has a long history in supporting and providing community palliative care in the Moira Shire," Ms Phillips said.

"The palliative care staff, volunteers and local health services are congratulated on their commitment to high standards of palliative care and seeing the service grow and expand to what we see today."

Moira Palliative Care is based in the Community Health Centre, at NCN Health Numurkah.

It is a free service that operates across Numurkah, Nathalia, Cobram and Yarrawonga. The service aims to improve the quality of life for people living with life threatening illnesses.



Scene of carnage ... The dogs accessed a back yard chicken coop, killing seven chickens, before escaping over the fence in May last year.

Court orders dogs be euthanised

AFTER almost 12 months of legal proceedings, a court has ordered that two dogs responsible for the deaths of chickens in Numurkah last year be euthanised.

At a court hearing on May 13, the owner of the dogs was found guilty of 12 offences relating to the dogs, and was fined and ordered to pay costs in excess of \$8,000, with the two dogs ordered to be euthanised.

The unregistered dogs, one of which was a large brindle and white animal and the other a large shaggy grey animal, were impounded by Moira Shire council in early June last year.

Their impoundment followed an incident in which seven chickens were attacked in a backyard coop on Campbell Street in May, and numerous reports of the dogs roaming the streets and behaving aggressively.

The dogs had been photographed by a Numurkah resident who found the dogs in their back yard, and the photograph was passed on to council rangers.

In June 2019 council officers investigated a separate complaint about dogs being kept at a property in Numurkah.

Moira Shire Manager Building, Safety and Amenity Peter Phillips said five dogs were observed at this property, with two of the dogs matching the description and photographs of the dogs allegedly involved in the chicken attack in May.

"Later that day, council officers attended another residence in Numurkah to investigate an-

other complaint of two stray dogs in the back yard. These dogs were captured by council officers then conveyed to the pound," Mr Phillips said.

Daphne Orr, whose chickens were killed by the dogs, told the *Leader* she was pleased the dogs were to be euthanised.

"It's the best result we could have hoped for," she said.

"I've been scared of what would happen if the dogs came back, because they know they can kill things here. And if they were loose on the street they could easily attack a child.

"It's the owners' fault - they have brought those dogs up to be vicious, and they can't be rehabilitated."

Mr Phillips said the devastation unrestrained dogs have on farmers, herd animals, pets and native wildlife is immense.

"There is also a danger to the public, with the risks of attacks on individuals, and in particular small children, who can sustain severe injuries," he said.

"This is a risk any council is not prepared to take, and why pet registration is compulsory, with owners encouraged to train their dogs and house them in suitable confined yards.

"Moira Shire Council advocates for responsible pet ownership, which is in the best interests of the pet, the owner and the community as a whole, and this is why there are a number of rules about keeping dogs, cats and other animals in our townships.

TELEGRAPH Hotel

WE ARE BACK!

OPENING THURSDAY 4TH JUNE FOR DINE IN MEALS

OUR TRADING HOURS FOR THE FIRST WEEK WILL BE

THURSDAY 4TH 12-2PM 5.30-8PM FRIDAY 12-2PM 5TH 5.30-8PM

SATURDAY 6TH 12-2PM AND 5.30-8PM.

SUNDAY 7TH BREAKFAST 9-11AM,

LUNCH 12-2PM DINNER 5.30-8PM.

MONDAY 8TH BREAKFAST 9-11AM, LUNCH 12-2PM.

TAKEAWAY MEALS WILL STILL BE AVAILABLE

BOOKINGS ARE ESSENTIAL DUE TO LIMITED SEATING

Please note the largest group size is 6 people, due to social distancing restrictions.

Larger family groups will be required to book multiple tables which will be placed 1.5m apart.

Please note that we will be operating as a restaurant, offering table service.

We kindly ask patrons to consider that service and procedures will be different to what has happened in the past due to restrictions and guidelines.

We are open for meals only, however, you will be able to order alcoholic beverages as you dine.

WE ARE EXCITED TO WELCOME YOU INTO OUR NEW DINING EXPERIENCE!

THANK-YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT AND UNDERSTANDING THROUGHOUT THESE TIMES!

MELVILLE STREET, NUMURKAH PH. 5862 1051

IT'S UP TO YOU

Choose a small school to advance your child.

- Attention to detail, same programs, less students and distractions
- More personal space in a peaceful, rural setting
- Bus transport from Numurkah & Nathalia
- Great ITC options

RING FOR AN INSPECTION
ENROL NOW FOR 2021

Wunghnu Primary 5862 1701
Katunga South Primary 5864 6212
Waaia-Yalca South Primary School 5864 1283





Emergency Mentoring and Business Regeneration Support

WHO
Business owners wanting to improve management right now.

Activity
2 x 1 hour sessions.

When
By individual arrangement with presenter.

Aim

- Guiding businesses through crisis and change
- Provide advice on adapting and protecting your business
- Work on productivity and profitability
- Step-by-step approach to reduce stress

Info
www.iongroup.com.au

How
Online via Zoom, Facetime or Skype.

Presenter
Leigh Crocker, ION Group.

When
11 June 2020 at 8.30am.

Eventbrite: www.eventbrite.com.au/o/moira-shire-council-economic-development-8799412715

Leadership for the 'next normal'

WHO
Business people who want help with people & team performance during turbulent conditions.

Activity
4 workshops plus a 29 day Habit Builder.

Aim

- Leading connected teams through difficult conditions
- Adapting
- Reimagining operations
- Building productive habits

Info
www.lifebloodperformance.com

How
Zoom plus Actionable Habit Builder 29 Day program.

Presenter
Mark Bloodworth.

Eventbrite: www.eventbrite.com.au/o/moira-shire-council-economic-development-8799412715

How to turn a Facebook Like (Instagram Follow) into a paying customer

WHO
Businesses that want to increase profitability from online activity.

Activity
2 hour workshop and 1 hour follow up mentoring.

Aim

- Platform usage
- Importance of engagement
- Tricking the algorithm

When
Wed 10 June 2020 10 am to 12 midday Mentoring by arrangement with presenter.

Info
www.facebook.com/socialmediaandmarketing.au

How
On line.

Presenter
Jenn Donovan.

Eventbrite: www.eventbrite.com.au/o/moira-shire-council-economic-development-8799412715

Workshops for Moira Businesses

We are offering workshops specially designed to mentor, lead and engage during these challenging times.

Click on the links provided for more information or book your place through Eventbrite.

(03) 5871 9222

133 677

info@moira.vic.gov.au

www.moira.vic.gov.au

New look Telegraph to open its doors



WHEN the Telegraph Hotel opens its doors to punters tomorrow for the first time since March 23, it will do so with a whole new spring in its step.

During the unprecedented shut-down, the Telegraph has undergone some renovations.

Owner Nathan Morris said that, once the initial shock of the government-mandated closure wore off, the Telegraph team realised they'd been presented with a unique opportunity.

"The pub was overdue for a freshen up, and that's not something you can easily do when you are open seven days a week. Under normal circumstances, you can't just shut up shop," he said.

"We realised we actually had a unique opportunity to give the place a bit of a facelift. We've been heavily affected by the shut-down, but we also had an opportunity to get something positive out of it, so we took it."

From top to bottom, the whole place is looking schmick.

"We've got new carpets, ceiling, cabinetry, toilets, paint and decoration. It's really come together well," Nathan said.

In August, they'll also be unveiling a completely renovated upstairs accommodation space, with seven air conditioned ensuite rooms, and two two-bedroom family suites.

Nathan and his team have also taken the opportunity to re-assess what kind of service the venue offers.

"We're taking small steps to begin with, but we are trying a few new things," he said.

"We've got a new wine list and we've made a few menu changes. For the time being, we're changing our hours, because winter is always quiet mid-week, we'll be closed on Tuesday and Wednesday for now."

For the time being, the new-look Telegraph will be open for lunch and dinner on Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday, dinner on Monday and - most excitingly - breakfast on Sunday and Monday.

The venue will be able to seat up to 62 people at a time for each sitting.

"We're really excited to be able to welcome everyone back, and to be able to provide a fresh new venue when we do," Nathan said.

"It's been a long, hard couple of months, but we've all made it through."

New look, same warm welcome ... Nathan Morris is excited to welcome customers back to the Telegraph, which has been given a fresh, new look.

Moira visitor services go mobile

MOIRA shire tourism businesses who've taken a hit from the COVID-19 restrictions are being given a helping hand to draw visitors back, with the launch of the new Mobile Visitor Information Centre (VIC).

The specially designed van will be used to showcase local attractions, and will be situated at various locations throughout the shire during peak season, and used to promote the region at events and venues locally or outside of the shire during the off-peak months.

Mayor Libro Mustica said council must adapt to the changing times, and this was an opportunity to bring visitor information to where the visitors are.

"Studies have shown the best information and service providers in the visitor economy are adding inspiration by going mobile," Cr Mustica said.

"This specially designed van features a television screen showcasing local attractions, events and everything that is happening in the region."

The van has been equipped to provide visitors with all the latest information they could expect to find at an accredited VIC, and has been decorated to showcase the region's key attractions and icons.

The tourism sector is an important one for the Moira Shire economy, with more than 500 jobs directly created by visitors coming to the region.

More than 1.3 million visitors travelled to the region last year,

spending close to \$370 million in the Sun Country on the Murray region alone.

The van will direct tourists and day visitors to the multitude of attractions our region offers, and will be used to build awareness and penetrate new tourism markets.

"A key point to our visitor services strategy is to bring the local knowledge and passion of our visitor information staff and volunteers to community events anywhere in the shire, as well as events and festivals in major centres and other municipalities, and this is exactly what the mobile VIC will do," Cr Mustica said.

Cr Mustica said council also actively encouraged all tourism-related businesses to be a part of the Australian Tourism Data Warehouse (ATDW), which was the national platform for digital tourism information in Australia.

"We know that visitors use more than one source of information to find out about a destination, and that more and more people are booking and researching their next holiday online," he said.

"The ATDW plays an important role in industry education, helping tourism operators make the most of online opportunities and allowing them to attract and facilitate more online bookings."

A calendar on Council's website will display the location of the bus.

People can also receive the information by phoning the free call number 1800 607 607.



Going where the visitors are ... Mayor Libro Mustica gets a tour of the mobile visitor information centre from visitor services staff member Cheryl.



Thank You Victoria.

While some restrictions have eased, limiting our movement everyday means everything. It means we slow the spread of the virus. If we keep working from home and we limit the number of us moving around, we can keep kicking a footy in the park. If we use common sense and keep our distance, we can visit cafes and restaurants. And if we only see those we need to, we'll keep our friends and families safe.

We all have a part to play.
It's up to all of us to make this work.



For details go to vic.gov.au/CORONAVIRUS

Authorised and published by the Victorian Government, 1 Treasury Place, Melbourne



Pool registration deadline extended

DUE to the impacts of coronavirus, the Victorian Government has extended the deadline for the mandatory registration of private pools and spas.

The new deadline is an acknowledgement of the extra pressure on families and the increased workload on councils due to the pandemic.

Private pool and spa owners now have until November 1, 2020 to register their pools with their local council – an extension of five months from the original June 1 deadline.

The government introduced new regulations in December last year to make swimming pools and spas safer and prevent young children from drowning.

These changes require owners to register their pools and spas with their local council with a one-off fee of up to \$79.

Once registration is complete, the council will inform the pool owner of the date by which they must organise their first inspection and certification of their barrier – the deadline for owners to lodge their first barrier certification will also be extended.

In addition, owners must have a registered building surveyor or inspector certify the continuing compliance of their safety barrier every four years.

Owners who fail to register their pool or spa with their council by November 1 may face an on-the-spot fine of \$330.

Minister for Planning Richard Wynne said pool and spa ownership is a choice, and with that choice comes the responsibility of making sure they are safe.

“We know many people are doing it tough and this gives owners and councils more time to comply with the new regulations ahead of next summer,” he said.



How's business? ... Roger Seiter was one of the business people to receive a visit from Suzanna Sheed when she visited town last week.

Suzanna Sheed visits district

INDEPENDENT member for Shepparton District Suzanna Sheed took a tour of the Numurkah district last Tuesday, taking advantage of lifted restrictions to see how local businesses and organisations were weathering the COVID-19 storm.

Ms Sheed visited Nathalia in the morning, meeting with a couple of individual constituents who had reached out to her with specific concerns, as well as dropping in on a number of businesses and the community house.

Coming to Numurkah in the afternoon, Ms

Sheed visited businesses including Gagliardi Scott and Numurkah Furniture and Bedding.

Ms Sheed said while it was obvious that many local businesses had been deeply impacted by the virus restrictions, she had been encouraged by what many who had been able to continue trading had to say.

“I’ve been told that the local community have been very supportive of their local businesses and that is wonderful to hear,” she said.

“These are very supportive communities, so it’s not that surprising really, but it is good to

see everyone banding together and taking the situation seriously and supporting each other.

Ms Sheed said that one topic that had been raised repeatedly throughout the day was the impact an absence of sport was having on local communities.

“People have really been impacted by that on a lot of levels,” she said.

“Obviously there is the effect on the clubs and all the people associated with them, and there is the social aspect of it, but it’s also affecting businesses that supply the clubs and the games.”

Come Back Stronger

Dear local business partners,

The Coronavirus has triggered a major economic shock, and local businesses are doing it tough.

However, throughout history when transformational shocks to the economy occur, they always create opportunity too. In times of crisis, we need to push panic aside and make calm, clear-headed decisions – and look for **OPPORTUNITY!**

- The JobKeeper and JobSeeker payments will assist in supporting the local economy
- For some, this could provide a greater opportunity to spend
- Initial surveys show much of this money will be spent locally
- Restrictions are slowly easing, so expect consumers to be more active
- The restrictions have created pent up consumer demand across our region
- Demand for local consumer goods and services is likely to be higher than normal given continued severe restrictions in other sectors

There is plenty of opportunity! And the businesses that are most proactive will seize it.

It may seem counter-intuitive, but there has never been a better or more important time to work on your next marketing move.

Now is the time to plan! We’re ready to help.

Call us today! **5862 1034**. We’d like to help you COME BACK STRONGER!

NumurkahLEADER



THANK YOU

Catholic Education Sandhurst

would like to thank staff, students, parents & guardians of

**St Joseph’s Primary
Numurkah**

for your support & commitment to
quality learning during COVID-19 restrictions



Australian Government

As we get out there again,
it's up to all of us to

STAY COVID FREE DO THE 3



WASH
HANDS



PHYSICAL
DISTANCE



HAVE
THE APP

And if you're experiencing cold or
flu-like symptoms, stay home and speak
to your doctor about getting tested.

BE COVIDSAFE

For more information about Coronavirus (COVID-19),
please visit [health.gov.au](https://www.health.gov.au)



Small but mighty schools there for local kids

A LOT goes in to choosing a school for your child, but if personalised learning, peer to peer mentoring and plenty of one-on-one attention are your priorities, then Numurkah district's smaller schools are an ideal choice.

Each of the district's small schools has a bus service, and offers specialist programs, including library and art, that you would find at larger schools.

Wunghnu, Katunga South and Waaia-Yalca South Primary Schools are all blessed with great, spacious facilities and an environment that will ensure that getting lost in the crowd is never an option.

Julie Nicholls, who teaches at both Wunghnu and Waaia-Yalca South, said she loves the calm atmosphere at the smaller schools.

"There is plenty of room, but there's nothing impersonal about it and the relationships between the students and staff, and the relationships the students have with each other, are re-

ally strong," she said.

"You can also be much more flexible with your teaching and teach at the point of need for each student, and that's really powerful for their learning."

Grade three student Dominic, who came to Wunghnu from the much larger Colac South Primary School, said he much prefers the small school environment.

"You can make good friends, and you don't get picked on," he said.

Wunghnu school captain Ruby Guilline, who has been at the school since grade prep, agrees.

"You can make friends with everybody and everybody helps everybody," she said.

So, don't forget to tour the smaller schools when you do the rounds - though they all have positive attributes in common, each of them is unique, and one of them is bound to be exactly what you're looking for.



Blockage ... A 'fatberg' containing non-flushable materials pulled from a GVV sewer in April.

Sewer blockages spike in March and April

GOULBURN Valley Water is reminding people to only flush the '3Ps' - poo, pee and toilet paper - after a more than 60% increase in sewer blockages across the network in March and April.

Data shows that there were 61 blockages in March, compared to 38 for March in 2019 - an increase of 62%.

In April, there were 71 blockages, a 66% increase on the 2019 April figure of 51.

The spike is attributed to a recent increase in non-flushable items being flushed down the toilet, such as wet wipes, paper towels and tissues - and even underwear.

Figures for May are currently trending steady when compared to last year, and GVV's Operations Manager Steven Nash said he hoped it was a sign the 'Don't Flush It' message was reaching people.

"These blockages are caused by non-flushable items in the system, for example when wet wipes, including those labelled 'flushable', paper towel, tissues or sanitary items are flushed down

the toilet, and they get caught on tree roots, in pump stations or combine with fats and oils to create large fatbergs," Mr Nash said.

"When we see an increase in blockages, it means our operational and maintenance teams are pulled away from other critical and priority works to repair blockages in the sewer mains or pump stations."

"We really need everyone to only flush the 3Ps to help prevent sewer blockages. These blockages can cost us hundreds of thousands of dollars each year to remove, and that money and time could be better spent elsewhere."

GVV education officer Kristy Elrington said tests which simulate the water flow in the sewer system, have shown that only toilet paper breaks down quickly - after 10 minutes, paper towels, tissues and wet wipes were still intact.

"Things like wipes, paper towels, sanitary items, underwear and anything else that isn't the 3Ps should go in the bin, and remember that blockages can be very costly to remove if they're in your own home," she said.



Room for everybody ... Wunghnu Primary School students all enjoy the strong friendships the small school environment fosters.



Welcome to Katunga South ... Katunga South Primary School students love the unique features you wouldn't find at a larger school.



Learning from a specialist ... Waaia-Yalca South students enjoy a lesson from a visiting library specialist.

Vic cultural institutions to re-open for school holidays

MELBOURNE'S major cultural institutions will welcome back Victorians in time for the winter school holidays.

Minister for Creative Industries Martin Foley has announced that the National Gallery of Victoria, the Melbourne Museum, Scienceworks, State Library Victoria, and parts of Arts Centre Melbourne will officially re-open to the public on Saturday, June 27.

While some entertainment and cultural venues were allowed to open under strict conditions as of Monday, Victoria's key public institutions will take further time to ensure their facilities are ready to safely welcome back the community.

The directions of the Chief Health Officer will be the principal guide to re-opening conditions.

To prepare for re-opening, galleries, museums, libraries, theatres and performance spaces will implement a range of public health, hygiene and physical distancing measures to ensure the safety and wellbeing of visitors and staff. The number of people allowed in each separate space will be consistent with the Chief Health Officer's directions.

Mr Foley said that, even with their lights off and doors closed, Victoria's cultural institutions have continued to entertain and connect millions of people in Victoria and beyond with innovative virtual experiences.

"But nothing beats the real thing," he said.

"Our venues will put the right measures in place so Victorians can confidently and safely visit our many fantastic cultural attractions in the school holidays and beyond."

Melbourne Museum plans to re-open all of its spaces, including the popular Pauline Gandel Children's Gallery, as well as IMAX Melbourne. Scienceworks in Spotswood, much loved by

children of all ages, will also open all of its experiences.

NGV International on St Kilda Road and NGV Australia in Federation Square will welcome art lovers to exhibitions including Collecting Comme and Japanese Modernism.

The State Library's iconic La Trobe Reading Room and the Ian Potter Queen's Hall will again inspire visitors, along with other recently transformed spaces.

Arts Centre Melbourne will open for self-guided tours and visits to the popular Australian Music Vault exhibition in the Theatres Building, and the immersive Ghostly Machines in Hamer Hall.

In the weeks leading up to their official re-opening, some of these venues will welcome smaller community groups for special access, viewings and programs.

From June 22-26, NGV will host special interest groups, giving priority access to community members who face additional challenges in experiencing the gallery.

Over the same period, Melbourne Museum will welcome back museum members as well as children with autism and their families.

From June 15, State Library Victoria will open its ground-floor information centre and Cowen Gallery for those with limited access to wi-fi and communication technology.

These cultural icons will also continue to offer their popular virtual experiences, such as streamed talks, children's programs, performances and behind the scenes tours, which have been embraced by Victorians during the closure period.

For more detail on what's on, what's open and tickets, visit the relevant organisation's website.

A CUPPA WITH DOM

A cuppa with John

Full name: John Charles Watson

Age: 70

Marital status: Married to Linda with four children between us, one of whom died 20 years ago, aged 17

Schools attended: St Joseph's Numurkah and St Vincent's Bendigo as a boarder

Summer or winter? Autumn or Spring

Beach or mountains? I love both

Oscar the Grouch or Cookie Monster? Cookie Monster. One of my boys' best friends at school was nicknamed Cookie Monster and I've always had a warm spot for him

Crunchie or Violet Crumble? That's a hard one. I love them both.

Elvis or The Beatles? The Beatles

AC/DC or INXS? AC/DC

Favourite colour?

It changes sometimes, but at the moment it's orange

Favourite song?

The Gambler by Kenny Rogers

Favourite TV show?

I like dramas and at the moment The Bodyguard is my favourite. It's very well done and almost believable.

Favourite movie?

Madagascar, because a movie should entertain you. I don't need to be educated by movies.

Favourite book?

Four fires by Bryce Courteney. It's set in north eastern Victoria in my era, so I could relate to most of the characters.

Do you make lists?

No, I read lists written by Linda.

Who do you admire?

At the moment, Scott Morrison. I'm not a fan of politicians per se, because most of them are show ponies, but I think he's done an outstanding job recently.

When you were a kid, what did you want to be when you grew up?

A pilot or a policeman - something where you wear a uniform. I grew up in the post-war era and just about every adult I knew had spent time in a uniform. My dad and my mother and a whole bunch of people I knew had put their hand up during the second world war and I really admired what they had done, and because of that I looked for something that had a uniform and some sort of service.

What kind of kid were you?

Argumentative. I had five sisters and a much younger brother and we had a terrific time growing up on a dairy farm out of Numurkah. I love all my siblings dearly and we were close as kids, but we were all argumentative and still are today. Anyone who knows any of the Watsons will tell you we're all argumentative.

My mother was a school teacher until she got married and she was desperately keen to see us all get an education and develop our own personalities and maybe that's where it came from.

Like a lot of farm kids at the time you were sent off to boarding school, how did you find that?

I was 10 when I went. I was never keen on the idea, and in five years there I never really warmed to it.

Growing up in a big family of kids I had my own community around me, and we had a very close neighbourhood. We were part of the soldier settlement scheme and it was a great community. The men and the women all worked together to develop the

Happy in his community ...

John Watson could have lived anywhere when he retired from corporate life, but came straight back to the community he loves.



farms and help each other. It was a real community, and I've never experienced anything like it anywhere else I've lived or worked.

I also had the school community, and all the kids I went on the school bus with. In Numurkah, I was surrounded by community and I didn't want to be separated from it.

Two years into boarding school, my mother died leaving seven kids.

Mum had been in and out of hospital in Melbourne for a year, and dad was running the farm, milking morning and night and going back and forth to Melbourne all the time.

That bonded us even more strongly to the community, because the younger ones who weren't at boarding schools were farmed out to other families around the district, and during the school holidays us older ones stayed with other families around the district.

Dad really pushed us to stay at boarding school and get an education. I honestly don't know how he did it.

Immediately after mum died, he got us all back home together. He was mum and dad to seven kids from a two year-old to a 15 year-old. It's an

extraordinary effort on his part.

You joined the police force after school didn't you?

I left school at 15 because I felt dad really needed a hand at home. He would say 'no, I can manage', but I felt that he needed some assistance at home, and I didn't like school anyway.

I came home and helped on the farm until I turned 18 then a mate and I struck out to find work. We ended up at Wyalla in South Australia at the ship building yards and told a few pork-pies about our age to get work with BHP - because you had to be 21 - and we got away with it. We lived in the caravan park there for 12 months, working long hours and making good money. We lived cheaply and stashed money away, then I came back to the farm for a while.

I was back on the farm for a year or two, and in that time I joined the CMF, which is called the army reserve now. The draft was on for Vietnam then and dad was convinced I'd get called up and he said if I was in the CMF and learned the ropes I'd be in a better position when I got called up.

The call never came, and I joined the police force at 19 and really enjoyed

it. I had three or four years at various stations in Melbourne but I got quite frustrated because, at that time, it took seven years before you could get your first promotion. I passed the exam in the first year and then had to wait six years before I could take the promotion.

I decided it was going to take forever to get anywhere and the pay was lousy. You had to take part time jobs to make ends meet. I was working five shifts a week in the police force and three nights at the Whiskey A-Go-Go as a bouncer, and on my two days off I drove trucks delivering to bakeries and butchers. It was just work, work, work.

I left the police force and bought my own truck, then another one and another one, and built up a trucking business.

We came back and bought a dairy farm at Katunga - the worst dairy farm in the best dairy farming district. We came back just in time for the 1982 drought, and then in 1983 the milk price dropped 30%, in 1984 it dropped another 20 or 30% and in 1985 it dropped again. We thought 'what have we done?'

We had borrowed money and laser-graded the farm and then when things came good, as they always do, we were in a position to have decent production.

How did you get involved with the politics of farming?

They were planning to bring in a milk price entitlement scheme, which was a terrible idea that would have killed the industry for young, new farmers.

I joined the local United Dairy farmers Victoria (UDV) branch at Katunga and probably had too much to say because I was argumentative, but the nett result was I ended up president of the UDV.

It was a full-time job at an office in Melbourne, so we got share farmers in and then came home on the weekends to a falling down house that we made our base at Katunga, and did farm planning business.

In that job I got a lot of experience with dealing with people and concepts and learned a lot about leadership and dealing with people at board level.

Then I joined the Victorian Farmers Federation and then the Australian

A CUPPA WITH DOM



Farmers Federation and was elected deputy president in the 90s. I did that for three years. I got exposed to federal politicians and public servants and learned a lot again about dealing with them. Even though I was a small dairy farmer from Numurkah, I was expected to go into the treasurer's office and argue the finer principles of tax policy, so I had to be able to do that because there was a lot at stake for farmers.

Towards the end of that time I got involved with the fertiliser company Pivot which was the biggest farming cooperative in Victoria with 40,000 farmer members.

It was being harassed by a corporate raider and the farmers were going to get skunk and lose whatever value they had.

A mate and I decided we'd stand for the board and take these raiders on. We were both well known in the farming community so we ran a campaign to get elected to the board, standing against the chairman and deputy-chairman.

We won the vote easily, but because of what I'll call a sleight of hand, the votes weren't all counted and it was declared that we had lost the vote, because they had control of the meeting.

We lodged an objection in the County Court and the court found in our favour on every point of law. That finding actually formed a part of case law that is now taught in law schools all around Australia. The only precedent before that, which our barrister found, was in the 17th century in England at a church warden's election.

This was pretty big stuff for a couple of blokes with big debts on small farms, and not a lot of resources, but what was happening was wrong, and having spent so many years in farming organisations, we thought what have we done all this for if it just gets blown away because some clever person comes along and thinks they should have it and not the farmers.

So we got elected and at the first board meeting I was elected chairman of Pivot. I didn't know where the coffee machine was - I didn't even know where the office was - it was an almost blinding experience that was lobbed in front of me.

Even though we'd taken on the chairman and deputy-chairman we'd had no intention of taking on those roles. That started a very interesting time in Pivot's history because not long after we got there, it became apparent that Pivot was in quite bad financial difficulty. So quite early on we were having conversations with the banks about whether they'd support the company or bring the receivers in. We could see the possibility of the whole lot crashing down and becoming valueless and a lot of farmers losing not just their value in shares, but they'd invested other savings as well and that could have

all gone.

We decided to do whatever it took to keep the company going. That was in 1998 and 10 years later the company, now called Incitec Pivot, had a shareholders value of \$11 billion. The farmers who had hung onto their shares did incredibly well out of it.

It's now Australia's biggest fertiliser company and the world's second biggest explosives business, the largest explosives business in America and the second largest in Australia - which are the two biggest explosives markets in the world.

It was a great success story.

I was chairman for 14 years, until 2011, and I'd also chaired the Victorian Meat Authority for 14 years. Following the Royal Commission into the AWB, I was asked to chair the Australian Wheat Export Commission, and I've been on various other boards as well.

How did your farming background equip you to be on those boards?

All the businesses and organisations I've been on the boards of have been farming and rural based.

The business concepts are all the same - they don't change much. What changes are the people that are involved in them.

Most food industries are based in rural communities and if you understand the community part of it you understand the culture of how it works. The culture of the business is so closely connected to the culture of the communities.

A couple of things I find really appealing is the honesty of most of the people in these businesses, and that translates into the way they want to treat their employees, their suppliers, their customers and so on.

It's always about money, but it's not just about money. It's about giving your people an opportunity to grow in the business and making sure they have a safe, secure workplace and that they have a future in it.

The only thing I'm still involved in is Tassell, which does salmon farming in Tasmania. I retired from that, but they asked me to come back because they were going into a new venture, which was prawn farming in Queensland. But it's all farming - the business concepts are still the same.

When I first joined Tassel it was in receivership. It had gone belly-up because the directors had misunderstood the business and treated it like a manufacturing business.

They weren't farmers, so they didn't understand that farming has a lot of different types of risk and a longer return on investment cycle.

How did a farmer from Numurkah deal with talking to people in those positions of power?

The hardest thing to deal with was a lack of self-confidence, because I hadn't grown up in that environ-

ment, or that type of family.

Imposter syndrome is one of the things I've struggled with more than anything else - worrying 'can I do this?' 'am I up to this?' I'm sitting there against people who have double degrees and grown up in a family where everybody has a double degree.

My dad always said 'brains are really good, but common sense will kill it every time' and I think if you keep trying to simplify everything back to common sense you won't go far wrong.

It doesn't matter how complex something is, it can generally be described in a single sentence if you can get that complex issue back to a single sentence, not only can you understand it, but you can tell somebody else about it.

I think the problem is that you need to overcome your own insecurities and lack of self confidence, but you don't want to become brash. You don't want to pretend you know something you don't know, because you'll come undone very, very quickly. So you need to be prepared to put your hand up and say 'I don't understand that, can you please repeat that? Can you use my language to explain that?' People actually don't mind that because if they are telling you something they want you to know that.

That was something I used when I was talking to politicians and public servants who knew nothing about farming. You need to present things in a way that they understand, because it's no good if only a couple of people walk out of the room understanding what you said. If you're asking people to do something, or to trust you with something, you need them to understand it.

You're obviously seen as a bit of a Mr Fix-it. How do you feel about that?

I don't think I've ever been offered an easy job. I'm not sure if that's because I'm good at the hard jobs, or because nobody else will take them.

I think part of it is because I feel like I've got nothing to lose. I've never had any great wealth that someone could take away from me so I could face off with these corporate raiders without worrying that they could take anything away from me.

A much bigger fear for me would be to join a company that was really successful and humming along nicely, because then it could all go downhill.

You've done lots of different jobs, what was your favourite?

I really enjoyed my time in the UDV - probably more so than the AFF - because you were much closer to the farmers. I enjoyed my time at Pivot - perhaps that's because we had success. I don't think you enjoy things as much if they don't work. I've also enjoyed my time at Tassell because we took it off the hands of the receiver-manager and

we've turned it into a billion dollar business.

People have a perception of board positions as being high paying - is that not the case?

I think people think that because corporate CEOs make so much money. Board members aren't paid anywhere near as much, because those positions are part-time. We're comfortable, but we enjoy being on a level playing field with our friends and family members. And if you have extra money, there are plenty of good causes to give it to. I don't understand the attraction to having more than you need, but I think a lot of people aspire to that because they think it's the only measure of success.

I don't think it is the only measure of success. I think getting a nice card on Father's Day and being able to have nice dinner with your wife and get a phone call from your kids is the measure of success. I think being able to get on your postie bike and go down to the supermarket in Numurkah dressed a bit daggy and talk to the people who are there is the measure of success.

We probably could have lived anywhere after I retired, and our choice was Numurkah. We like our community here. I still keep thinking about what happened when I was 12 years old and the people that were there for us and that community.

Do you have any hobbies?

I'm a motorcyclist. I've loved motorbikes since I was 15 and bought my first busted up bike.

I bought a new motorbike for my 70th birthday but I haven't been able to ride it because of coronavirus.

I love the solitude of motorcycling. If you ever watch a dog on the back of a ute with its head stuck over the side, you come to the conclusion that dogs understand motorcycling.

What one issue do you think mankind needs to resolve in order to ensure a more positive future?

Adversarial politics. It's the greatest anchor that developed countries drag behind them. And we, the cattle, tend to be forced to be part of the process, because we have to choose a side. I think the separation between sides is getting greater.

We've managed to politicise poverty, the environment, religion, domestic violence, sport to some extent, and I don't get it.

I hate being a conspiracy theorist, but I think we're being pushed into believing that everyone who doesn't sit under our flag is bad, and it's just not like that.

The politicians can be friendly, and go out to dinner with someone from the opposition, but they'd hate us to know that.

I've always had the view that the best parliament a country could have is one without party politics.

The Numurkah Leader
SOUTHERN VALLEY FARMERS' AND FRUIT GROWERS GAZETTE

100
years ago

This week in 1920 ...

To celebrate the State Library of Victoria's digitising of the war years editions of the Numurkah Leader, each week we will include the news of the week, 100 years ago.

To view these editions online go to trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/title/S91.

THE PRINCE'S VISIT

ADIGGER GIVES THE "DINKUM OIL"

Not being able (owing to the high cost of newspaper, the cost of living, and the forgetfulness of some of our customers to pay the printer, and that, anyhow, we have seen His Royal Highness in better "stunts" in France and Egypt) to go down and assist in welcoming the Prince of Wales to Victoria - we commissioned one of the local "Diggers" to furnish us with a report of the proceedings.

This is what he sent us yesterday:—
"Blime! The crowd! Thought I'd seen some in London and Glesca—but a guy hasn't room to use a hanky here. Melbourne is like a huge back yard where all the Mums have hung out a multicolored washing, with flags, rags, ribbons, streamers and very numerous etceteras. Some blinkin illuminations, too.

Fritz's star-shells and his goodnight bit of hate ain't in it; and to get anywhere is worse than trying to breast up to the canteen counter or wriggle into one of the Y. Emma's free picture joints. Saw Billy Hughes and the political bandits, and yelled "Grabber, pirate and profiteer" with the mob; and Billy certainly didn't like to see the khaki boys were waitin' to introduce the hob-nails first chance they get: he looked just as miserable as he did that day he came to address us near Armentieres, but had forgot to bring his voice, and all he could do was to look at us and say "Aye." Yes; he said "Aye" the other day when the "grab" was on. too He's just like the rest—"feet of clay," and all that.

Blime! All Euroa must be here. Just saw Bill Benstead, Jack Elgin, O'Malley (bet there's something doing). "Shinner" Barside, and a lot more; also Bogie, Longwood, Ruffy, Merton, and Balmattum blokes; in fact, from all round the old camp; lots of ladies from up home, too. Sergt. McCormack's down here—to keep the Euroa lot in order I s'pose! Oh, yes, I SAW THE PRINCE, and yelled with the rest: but though he looked my way, I don't think he remembered meeting me on a Sikh transport waggon at Ismalia. If he did, he was too proud to speak. He looks a bit more worried than he did then: and no wonder, having to face a yelling crowd every time he lobs anywhere. Glad it's his fatigue, and not mine. It's funny to see some of the "guns" trying to look as if they had been hob-nobbing with Princes all their naturals. Well, I gives him the glad hand, anyhow. He's done his bit, and if this trip of his helps to keep the old "Empiah" hangin' together, it's worth all the fuss, and has my sanction. There was real enthusiasm in the welcome. The Renown got befogged outside the Heads, and her "boss" wouldn't risk leaving some of his bottom plates at the entrance, so the destroyer Anzac (appropriately) was sent out to bring in the royal visitor. Consequently some of the red tape had the wirecutters applied to it, and some of the fripperies were cut out, for which I guess the Prince was thankful.

Lieut-Colonel Murray W. J. Bourchier, D.S.O., of Strathmerton and Colonel "Jack" Kendall, of Shepparton (formerly of Numurkah) were amongst those presented to H.R.H. the Prince of Wales on Thursday last.

Lieutenant Bourchier was invested as C.M.G. and Colonel Kendall had the order of O.B.C. pinned to his tunic.

Soldiers as Farmers.—Very satisfactory reports are being received in regard to the returned soldiers placed on irrigated areas under the control of the Water Commission. About 800 soldiers have been placed on the land in the irrigated areas. The land at Red Cliffs, near Merbein, will absorb about 1000 returned soldiers. Arrangements have been made to establish a nursery to grow vines for the new settlers. A commencement has been made with the clearing of land. Fully 40 soldiers are now actually employed on the works. It is hoped to be able to allocate some of the blocks by the end of the year.

The Nillahcootie Scheme.—The secretary of the Water Supply Commission has notified the Benalla Shire Council that the resolutions carried at the conference at Benalla on March 22 will be considered as soon as possible. He adds that the proposed amendment of the Water Act is, of course, a matter for action by Parliament.

Nominations for training awards about to close

IF you know an outstanding apprentice, student, teacher, employer or training provider, now is the time to put them forward, with nominations for the 66th Victorian Training Awards closing this Friday.

The awards recognise and honour the outstanding achievements of individuals, organisations, employers, and training and community providers in the

Victorian TAFE and training sector.

There are 16 award categories – six for individuals, four for industry employers and four for training and community organisations, as well as an Industry Collaboration Award and the Lynne Kosky Memorial Award for Lifetime Achievement.

Last year, the Royal Children's Hospital and Holmesglen Insti-

tute were the successful recipients of the Industry Collaboration Award in both the Victorian Training Awards and the Australian National Awards.

Their collaboration created a pathway to employment for young people with disability and demonstrated how barriers can be overcome through the effective partnering of education with industry.

Winners will be announced on September 18, with winners receiving \$5,000 in prize money.

Some winners will also get the opportunity to represent Victoria at the Australian Training Awards in Melbourne in November.

To nominate for the 2020 Victorian Training Awards visit vta.awardsplatform.com. Applications close at midnight on Friday.



Australian Government

JobKeeper.

Getting us back to

business sooner.

JobKeeper is here to help Australian businesses keep their current staff and employees keep their jobs. So, when you're ready to start up again or get back to work, we can all get back to business sooner. To find out more, visit [jobkeeper.gov.au](https://www.jobkeeper.gov.au)

NumurkahLEADER Classifieds



FOR SALE

REAL. CUSTOM. SHEDS.

Looking for a custom built shed...
Give Telfords a call today.



Shepparton (Head Office)
(03) 5821 4399
telfords.com.au



PUBLIC NOTICES

Local Builder looking for Handyman/Small jobs

Painting • Plastering • Floating floor • Tiling
Concreting • Kitchens • Any small building
work • Lawns/yard tidy up • Cleaning

Please contact Lucas Thornell
0499 980 518

ABN 16 003 750 904



Temporary Road Closure Numurkah

Council have programmed asphalt overlay works for the Melville St/Madeline St Roundabout Numurkah on Friday 5 June, these works require us to close the roundabout while the works are underway, traffic management and detours will be in place. Electronic multi message boards will be in place advising road users of the works and detours.

Council has approved this closure under Schedule 11, 10(1)(a) of the Local Government Act 1989.

Phone: 03 5871 9222 NRS: 133 677
Email: info@moira.vic.gov.au
Cobram Office: 44 Station St
Yarrowonga Office: 100 Belmore St
Mail: PO Box 578, Cobram VIC 3643

www.moira.vic.gov.au

SITUATIONS VACANT



NCN Health has the following vacancies:

Director of Clinical Services

Numurkah Campus
1.0 EFT (80 Hours) - Full Time
Permanent

Quality Improvement and Risk Manager

Across NCN Health Campuses
1.0 EFT (80 Hours) - Full Time
Permanent

Registered Nurse Numurkah Campus

Casual

Registered Nurse Numurkah Campus

Up to 0.8 EFT - Part Time Temporary
from July to September

Visit our website for further information including position descriptions, contact details, closing dates and the application process.

www.ncnhealthservices.org.au

BIRTHDAYS

Happy 80th Birthday

Dorothy Crawford

To my wife, all my love on her birthday on 3rd June.

From loving husband Arthur and all our family.

SITUATIONS VACANT



An opportunity to join the Moira team and develop your career with an innovative leader committed to delivering excellent services.

Desktop Support Officer / IT Helpdesk Officer

Location: Cobram
Type: Permanent Full Time
Salary: \$59,598.42 - \$64,804.67 + 9.5% Superannuation

For further information about the above position, visit moira.elmotalent.com.au/careers/Moira/jobs.

Moira Shire Council is an Equal Opportunity Employer offering flexible work arrangements for employees in a family-friendly work place.

Moira promotes a workplace that actively seeks to include, welcome and value the contributions of all people and encourages people with a disability, Aboriginal Australians, young people and people from culturally diverse backgrounds to apply.

BIRTHDAYS

Congratulations, love and best wishes

Betty Gray on your

90th birthday

Thursday, 4th June
From Allan and family.



Happy 90th Birthday to our dear mum Betty Gray

4th June 1930

We wish you a wonderful birthday
Love Carolyn, Neil, Melody, Chole & Brandon xx



DEATHS

LIDLAW

Margaret. Loved friend of Bert (dec.) and Marje Carter. Caring "Auntie Marg" to Leanne (Johnson). Cherished are the memories of a long time friendship.



HERITAGE PARK FUNERALS

Professional service and chapel at affordable prices

5862 2332
IVAN NEWBY
PETER KRAKE

DEATHS

McCLURE — Colin Douglas.

9.1.1953 - 26.5.2020
Peacefully at Grutzner House, Shepparton.
Loving son of George and Vera (both dec.).
Loving brother of Cherril (Hodgins) and Margaret (Clarence).
Forever in our Hearts

A service to celebrate Colin's life was held on Monday, June 1, 2020, at the Numurkah Lawn Cemetery.



HERITAGE PARK FUNERALS
5862 2332



"COME BACK, THAT'S ENOUGH, GOOD DOG JOHNA"

PUGH — Lewis (Pommy) Passed away May 25, 2020.

The Barmah Forest Cattleman's Association Inc. are deeply saddened to hear of the passing of Pommy. Long time supporter of the BFCA, former cattle owner, musterer and committeeman. Deepest sympathy to Jenny and family

R.I.P Pommy
BFCA

Death notices continued page 16

FUNERAL DIRECTORS

Aspirant Principal:

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL Learning & Professional Practice

Senior Leadership Position | Commencing January, 2021 | Student Population 625

St Mary of the Angels Secondary College is a co-educational Year 7 – 12 Catholic Secondary College located in Nathalia

We seek an aspiring Executive Leader; a person of faith and integrity to join our community;

Can you make a difference?

- Do you have a demonstrated commitment to Catholic Education?
- Are you committed to helping students reach their full potential?
- Do you have a passion for learning and professional practice?
- Are you committed to building community?
- Do you have demonstrated leadership qualities?

Applications should include:

- An introductory cover letter that makes reference to the role description
- Application Form, including three professional referees
- Response to the key selection criteria.

The Application Form, Role Description and Key Selection Criteria can be obtained from :
<http://www.smotanathalia.catholic.edu.au/about/employment>

Applications to be emailed to: principal@smotanathalia.catholic.edu.au
Attention: Andrea Dobson

Applications close 4pm Monday, 15th June 2020
St Mary of the Angels community promotes the safety, wellbeing and inclusion of all children.

NumurkahLEADER

Public holiday advertising deadlines

Due to next Monday being a public holiday, all copy for display advertising should be submitted no later than 12 noon on Friday, June 5 for next Wednesday's (June 10) edition.

The deadline for classified advertising will remain 12 noon Tuesday, but early copy would be appreciated.

TROPHIES & ENGRAVING
NUMURKAH LEADER

Peter Cox & Sons Funeral Directors P/L

Cnr Meiklejohn and Quinn Sts., Numurkah
CARING, PROFESSIONAL SERVICE,
TAILORED TO YOUR NEEDS

Phone 5862 3047
24 hours – 7 days a week

TUTTLES

— FUNERAL SERVICES —
Phone 1300 858 333

Caring 24 hour service

Inc. Binger & Tuttle, Limbrick & Tuttle,
Numurkah Funeral Services

NumurkahLEADER Classifieds

DEATHS

RENDELL — John.
28.5.1922 - 26.5.2020
Formerly of Numurkah and Kialla.

Loved and loving husband for nearly 70 years of Anne. Loved and loving father and father-in-law of Ruth and Max, Dianne and Howard, Robert and Margaret, Peter and Meredith, David and Sue, and Margaret and Tony.

Loved and loving grandfather of Lachlan, Rachel, Tanya and Marcus (dec.); Warren and Megan; Sam and Kate; Stephanie, Tom and Georgia; Tristan, Oscar and Charley; Amy, Tara and Morgan.

Loved and loving great grandfather of Benton and Grady; Owen; Liam and Eva; Willow and Grace; Riley, Lucy and Phoebe; Charlie and Grace; Patrick; Archie, Maggie and Pippa. Loved and loving son of the late David and Isabella Rendell (née Tweddle).

A Life Lived With
Love And Compassion

A Private Service publicly streamed on Friday 5th June at 12.30 pm.
Live stream link: <https://iframe.dacast.com/b/160340/c/534810>

Celebration planned when possible.

Peter Cox & Sons
Numurkah & Dist.
03 5862 3047
Member of the Australian
Funeral Directors Association

The sportsman from the bush

by Arthur German

THE small town of Katamatite has produced its share of sporting heroes over many years, including VFL/AFL footballers and a Stawell Gift winner. But there is none better than town legend Pat O'Kane.

Pat is one of nine children, six brothers and two sisters, who all grew up in the home now still occupied by Pat and his lovely wife Edna.

Edna, formerly from Yarrawonga, a north east beauty queen, was instantly attracted to the tall handsome athlete, and they were married in June of 1967.

The union produced two children, a daughter Anne Maree and a son Brian, both now in their fifties.

A champion tennis player who accumulated eight Victorian Country Championships,

and went on to play at the hallowed All England Lawn Tennis Championships, now better known as Wimbledon.

Pat was unusual in that he was an ambidextrous player, using his left hand as his backhand.

He also played at Kooyong in the Australian Championships and Forest Hills in New York, all now known as three of the Grand Slam tournaments.

He was seeded fifth in the Australian Hardcourt Championships in 1952, with two time Wimbledon champion Lew Hoad taking out the title.

He defeated three-time Grand Slam champion Neale Fraser, when Fraser was just 19, and again at 21 years of age, but considers his best performance was against Fraser, at the Limerick Championships in Ireland in 1958, just

five days after he had been runner-up at Wimbledon, when he took him to three sets, taking the second set in a marathon, 11 games to nine.

Football was another sport in which Pat excelled, playing at Yarrawonga with his brother Curly, where he was runner up in the club best and fairest twice, then moving on to Numurkah in the Murray Football League, winning two premierships and another two with Burrumine, in the Benalla Tungamah League.

On one occasion, Pat kicked 31 goals in three games, when playing in the minor league.

At one time when playing pennant tennis in the city, he was invited to train with Melbourne Football Club, and initially offered a game in the seconds, however he had to decline, as he had tennis commitments. An opportunity lost.

Had it been Collingwood, he may have changed his mind.

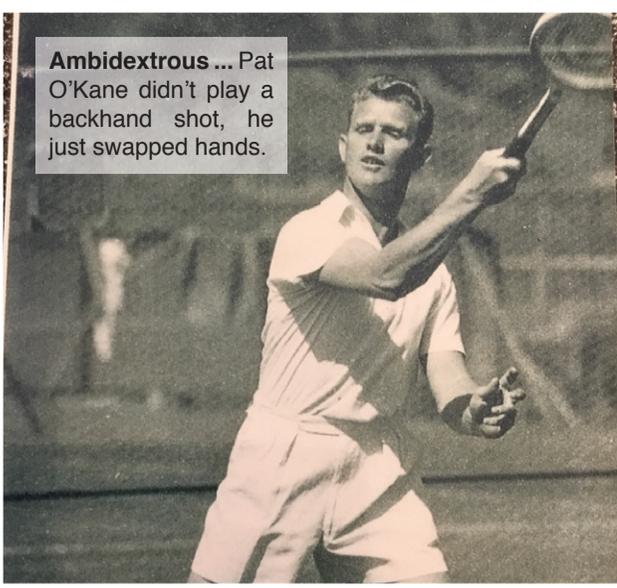
In his youth, Peter McKenna, a champion full forward for the Magpies during the 1960s and 70s, spent his summer holidays with the O'Kane family, and retains a lasting friendship, and Pat is still a great fan of some of the Collingwood stars of yesteryear.

Des Fothergill and Bobby Rose are ones he still idolises, with another favourite being full back Jack Regan, who even politely answered a letter a very young O'Kane had written to him.

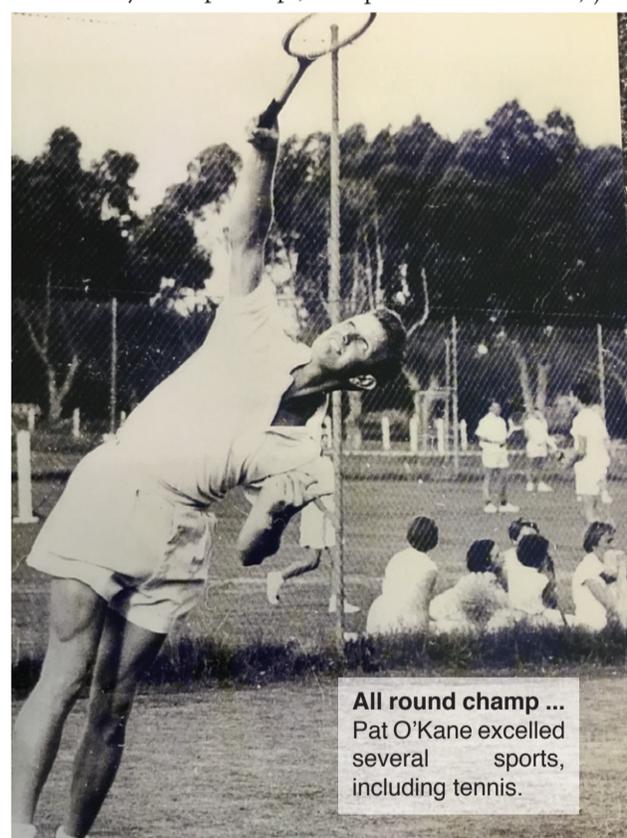
Pat has an interest in many sports, including running, cycling and trotting, at one time being a part owner of Murray Mack, a trotter which raced with great success.

He was on the Victorian Athletic League board for nine years, and 1957 Stawell Gift winner John Carr was his best man on his wedding day.

The legendary cyclist Sid Patterson was his hero in the



Ambidextrous ... Pat O'Kane didn't play a backhand shot, he just swapped hands.



All round champ ... Pat O'Kane excelled several sports, including tennis.

1940s and 50s, because of his exploits winning many world sprint championships.

Even today Pat speaks glowingly of Sid's magnificent performances, although through more modern technology and better training methods, his times have been obliterated.

Pat attended 50 Stawell Gift meetings, and was responsible for the reinstatement of 1995 winner Glen Crawford, after he was disqualified in a semi final. Crawford then went on to win the time-honoured event.

Pat has been a great contributor to the Katamatite community over many years.

He was installed as a life member of the local Lions Club some years ago, and is still an active member. He has served as chairman of the Katamatite Primary School committee, and has been a major contributor to the Cemetery Trust, and at just 16 years of age, became the secretary of the local Grain Elevators Board, until the wheat silo closed many years later.

He claims to be the only person in the world to have shorn 200 sheep in a day, and played tennis at Wimbledon.

A very engaging character

and great raconteur, he recalls many tales about the 94 years he has spent at Katamatite and beyond, mainly from the world of sport.

Not only was Pat an outstanding sportsman, but his brother Brendan (Curly) and sister Aileen also excelled in their chosen sports - sheep dog trials and tennis - with Curly winning multiple Australian sheep dog trials, and Aileen being victorious in two Victorian Country Tennis Championships.

As a footnote to this story, former Victorian National Party politician Don Kilgour and his twin brother Rod have idolised Pat from when they were young, where their family conducted a grocery business in the olde town.

"I met the Queen when in London, and when she asked where I came from, at first I was reluctant, as I thought she would never have heard of Katamatite, but when I told her, she asked, how is Pat O'Kane getting on," Don said at Pat's 80th birthday party.

A time honoured yarn, but most likely not too far from the truth.

Trades & Services

NUMURKAH DENTURE CLINIC
108-110 MELVILLE ST NUMURKAH

**BRUCE GRIFFETT OFFERS YOU
A FULL DENTURE SERVICE**

- RELINES, REPAIRS & MOUTH GUARDS
- VIC DENTURE SCHEME
- NSW DENTURE SCHEME
- VETERAN AFFAIRS

BY APPOINTMENT PHONE BRUCE 0425 861 478

Sullivan Smith Technologies

SPECIALIZING IN:

- Computer repairs
- Virus & Malware Removal
- Data Back Up & Retrieval
- Operating System Reloads
- Beginner Computer Tuition
- Remote Assistance

www.sullivansmithtechnologies.com
info@sullivansmithtechnologies.com
PH: 03 5862 2495 M: 0455 832 448

KRIS LEE EARTHWORKS

Numurkah Sand and Gravel
Ph: Kris - 0437 073 244 Ash - 0418 879 636
NEW LOCATION 2046 NATHALIA RD, NUMURKAH

Truck and dogs • Water truck hire • Loader hire • Road grader at 140m
1xgpps • Excavator 2x20t 1x30t gps • White rock • Cream and red granite
• Hill rock • 20mm - 40mm brown rock • Blue rock (various sizes)
• Stone dust • Washed pebbles (various sizes) • Agg rock and Septic rock • Garden topsoil • Packing sand • Lawn sand • Washed river sand • Commix • Compost • Mulch and barks

GEOFF EDDY BUILDER

Buildings & Alterations of Quality Homes
Bathroom & Kitchen Renovations

MOBILE
0418 326 478
Numurkah

HIA
Reg No. DB-U6526

GV Lawns & Landscaping

Justin Barker 0409 669 972

HORTICULTURE CERT 2 & 3
WE GROW AND SUPPLY OUR NURSERY STOCK

Numurkah Building & Plumbing P/L

Reg No DBU24094
Specialising in:
• New Homes • Pergolas • Reroofing
Specialising in septic systems

ONE CALL DOES IT ALL
Matt: 0407 046 331 Phil: 0419 360 905
Mark: 0427 646 231

Captain Ron an A grade winner

by "Rufus T. Firefly"

RON Smith demonstrated his usual steadiness by scoring a handicap-beating 37 stableford points in last Thursday's mid-week competition at Numurkah Golf Club.

Ron held off runner-up Steve Thornton on 36.

Former Tallygaroopna raider, now a Numurkah member, Graham 'Sparra' Montgomery came in with 37 points, the same point score as Ron, and won B grade from Graeme Ashton on 34.

All four competitors received appropriate golfing paraphernalia as rewards for their efforts.

In a pleasing field of 48 competitors, the following players also won club balls for their point scores: Gary Hosie 35, Ian Gray, Bob I' Anson, Steve Piggott, Col McMinn, Eric Moore, Sam Robertson and Bruce Collins - all 33, Allan Newby, Alan Rogers, Col Stone and Leigh Robertson 32, Graeme Sprunt 31.

Venerable past president Geoff Partington picked up the 'booby' prize of a tin of boiled lollies for coming in with the lowest score of just 20 points.

Players are reminded of the revised syllabus for the rest of the year and that mid-week golf now requires a time sheet booking until the situation returns to 'normal' - whenever that may be!



Little champ ... Ron Smith watches his ball as he tees off the first hole.

Bullant saves the best till last

by "Archie Bunker"

PETER "Bullant" Cowan joined the club that every golfer dreams about on Saturday, getting his first hole-in-one, during his round of golf at Numurkah.

Bullant saved his best shot until the last of the day, holing out on the par three 18th.

Hitting his seven iron off the tee, Bullant and his playing partners were most surprised to see the ball sail towards the green and roll into the hole, after he hit his shot off the tee a bit 'skinny'.

While he was unable to celebrate with his mates in the clubhouse, a photo posted on Facebook later that evening showed him relaxing in his spa with a stubby, apparently telling anyone who would listen.

A terrific field of 66 men were out on the Numurkah course again on Saturday, playing a stableford event.

Winner of B grade, with a great score of 40 points, was young Nathalia golfer Brayden Summerville. It seems a break from golf has done Brayden some good, as his driving and approach shots to the green were on song, and his putter never let him down.

Geoff Stone finished runner-up in B grade, with a very respectable score of 37 points.

This was the same score that Matty Ebborn recorded to win A grade. Matty had been playing some good golf before coronavirus stopped play, and it looks like his form is continuing, driving the ball straight and rarely getting into trouble off the tee.

Andrew Nicholls disappointed a lot of players by coming in with 36 points and only finishing second in A grade, due to the *Leader* photographer having snapped a shot of him on the 10th tee, and many hoping it would appear in print this week, so that he would face a trip-away fine.

Down the line balls went to Jye Warren, Kerry Collins and Bruce Collins with 36 points, Eric Moore and Jack Dell on 35, Ron Smith, Pierre Klaessen and Glen 'Bubba' Thompson on 34, Will Arnel and Brandan Hosie on 33, Paul Arnel, Gary Hosie, Darryl Sheridan, Col Stone, Graeme Sprunt and Anthony Sanders on 32, and the last of the balls went for 31 points, to Josh Smith and Bob I'Anson.

The new revised golf syllabus comes into play this Saturday, with the first round of the Jack Roche fourball to be played. Spots on the one tee timesheet are filling up fast, so organise a partner and get your names in.



Yuk, yuk, yuk ... Peter Cowan joined the coveted hole-in-one club on Saturday.

LOCAL SPORTING LEGENDS

Going out on top for family

MARK 'Bussy' Davies was at the top of his game when he retired from competitive water-skiing in 1986, having just won the national men's title for the third time, but he has no regrets.

"My first child was on the way, so I chose family - that was what was coming next and I wanted to have all my time and energy for that," he said.

"It cost a lot of money to do what we were doing, with tournaments, and a lot of time spent away from home.

"I thought 'well, I have to get out at some stage' so I got out.

"I don't have any regrets. I made my choice, I did what I did and I'm happy with it."

Though Bussy was just 26 when he retired from competing, he had been doing it for around 15 years.

He first took to the water at the end of a rope on Lake Mulwala aged just five, and with his father and uncle buying a property on the Murray River at Bundalong a few years later, that's where he could be found almost every weekend, and where his potential was first spotted.

"Up at Bundalong our neighbour was Wayne Nicholls and he got me into it when I was 11 years old," Bussy said.

"He's nine years older than me and he's a competitor himself and I used to muck around and practise with him doing slaloms, and I was jumping by that stage for something to do.

"He told me I should get into tournaments and that I could win the Victorian titles in sub-juniors, which is below the boys level."

Bussy thought he may as well give it a go, and came second in his first tournament.

"I thought 'that's not too bad', and that's where it started."

A few years later, Bussy moved up a level into the boys competition, and in 1977, aged 17, he set an Australian record and won the Australian junior title - but it came at a price.

"I jumped the record on my second jump, but I didn't know that. I knew I had a good jump because when you have a good jump you just float - it's a great sensation," he said.

"On the third jump I thought I'd go a little bit harder, but I was just a bit too late and hit the side of the ramp and did my shoulder, concussed myself, and they were going to skin graft my leg."

That was only one of many injuries Bussy suffered throughout his career, though he considers himself lucky never to have suffered any life changing injuries.

"I've had broken ear drums and all sorts of other things. I broke a leg learning to front flip. Getting injured like that was always hard, because I couldn't do anything and I just wanted to get out there, but you get these things along the way."

On one occasion, Bussy suffered a significant injury that wasn't obvious.

"One year I broke my foot doing a front flip and I went to the doctors here and they said 'everything's alright, stop sookin', and I thought 'it's bloody sore, but okay' and kept training."

"It was bloody killing me though - I couldn't get my foot in my binders."

"I went down to Melbourne for a practice day for Moomba and they had a few blokes there from overseas, because it's an international tournament.

"A physio from Canada said 'mate,

your foot's not real good'. They got me straight into a clinic in Melbourne and old mate goes 'you've got three broken bones in there' and I said 'well that explains why I couldn't handle it,'" he said.

Bussy was first invited to ski at Moomba when he was 15, an invitation that was extended and accepted every year until his retirement.

"I'd jump in night Moomba down in Melbourne during the week and I'd knock off work here in Numurkah at three o'clock, zip down to Melbourne, jump under lights then get back in the car and drive home, get back here at two o'clock in the morning and go to work the next morning," he said.

"If I made the finals, which I did a few times, I'd have to go down a few nights the next week to compete."

"It was hard, but if you like what you're doing you'll find a way. I was very lucky that I worked for my father, first as an apprentice, then as a qualified mechanic, because he understood about the skiing and if I was injured and needed time off he accepted it," he said.

Bussy said whilst skiing didn't scare him, skiing under lights was the exception.

"In those days we didn't have the lights they have nowadays, and it was bloody scary actually."

Bussy competed in three events - tricks, slalom and jumps - the scores of all of which combine to decide the title winner.

"Some people only specialise in one event, which obviously can make them pretty dominant," he said.

He won the Victorian boys title in 1975, 1976 and 1977 and was named Australian Skier of the Year in 1979.

"I won the Australian men's overall title in 1982, 1984 and 1986. In 1982 I also won the titles for tricks and jump, and in 1986 I won slalom and jump as well."

Given how different each of the three events are, and the range of skills needed to dominate at all three, winning the overall title is an especially impressive feat.

Bussy describes tricks as being like ballet, but for a bloke who says he's not built for ballet, you'd have to say he did alright.

"Learning to do that stuff is just about having the balls to try," he said.

"When you're competing in tricks you've got two runs of 20 seconds and you fit as many tricks in there as you can - you've got to try and fit 10 to 15 tricks into 20 seconds. That's all you've got and if you fall, that's it."

"The harder the trick the more points you get, so obviously you're trying to do the harder tricks."

Slalom, according to Bussy, is all about timing and a bit of aggression, whereas jumping requires full aggression.

"You have to have no fear, that's what it comes down to with jumping."

"The boat's doing 36 mile an hour and you're out the side, you double the speed, so you're doing 72 mile an hour by the time you hit the bottom of that ramp."

"You've got to be spot on and hit the ramp at just the right spot otherwise, at that speed, you're gone. When you hit the side of the ramp, what happens after that is completely beyond your control."

"I'm not an aggressive person, but I'm a competitor and that's where the aggression to be able to do those things comes from - I have to win."



Not built for ballet
... But bloody good at it nonetheless. Bussy Davies was named Australian skier of the year in 1979.

So, for someone who has to win, how did Bussy handle being beaten?

"I dealt with it graciously, because you have to," he said.

"You're always going to come up against someone that's going to be better than you, you're always going to have a bad day - everyone has them, it's as simple as that."

"You're out there to win - my word you are - but if you don't win, then you have to accept that, on the day, the other bloke was better."

"But you tell yourself that he's not going to have that day again, because next time you'll be better again."

"You just have to take it in stride and your mind has to work out what you're doing next. You try and work to be more consistent and get that extra half a buoy, or that extra trick or that extra two metres."

Though Bussy had a few options to compete overseas, it never came

about.

"I had the opportunity to go overseas when I was 17 to 19. I was asked a few times but it was just one of those things at the time - I was doing an apprenticeship, the family really couldn't afford it and it just wasn't really feasible for me," he said.

Committed to remaining at the top of the sport nationally, Bussy did what he needed to do to make it happen, and refused to let remaining in Numurkah hold him back.

"I skied all year round at one stage because all my competitors were going overseas and skiing all year round and training, so I thought I'd better do that too. It meant I had to work harder, but I was prepared to do that," he said.

"I skied up at Bundalong every weekend, weather permitting or not."

"In those days we didn't have dry suits - the wet suits that they've got now - they came in just as I was leaving

the sport.

"You'd come out of the water and be absolutely freezing. We'd have a big fire on the ground and if I could have stood on it I would have, because geez it was cold."

"It was hard work, but you have to do it. I've never thought much about it before, but I suppose the desire to win and constantly improve made it worth it."

Bussy was unusual among skiers because he played football and basketball in addition to competing as a skier.

"That's how I kept fit, training for and playing other sports," he said.

"I'd play footy on Saturday and then train on the river all day Sunday."

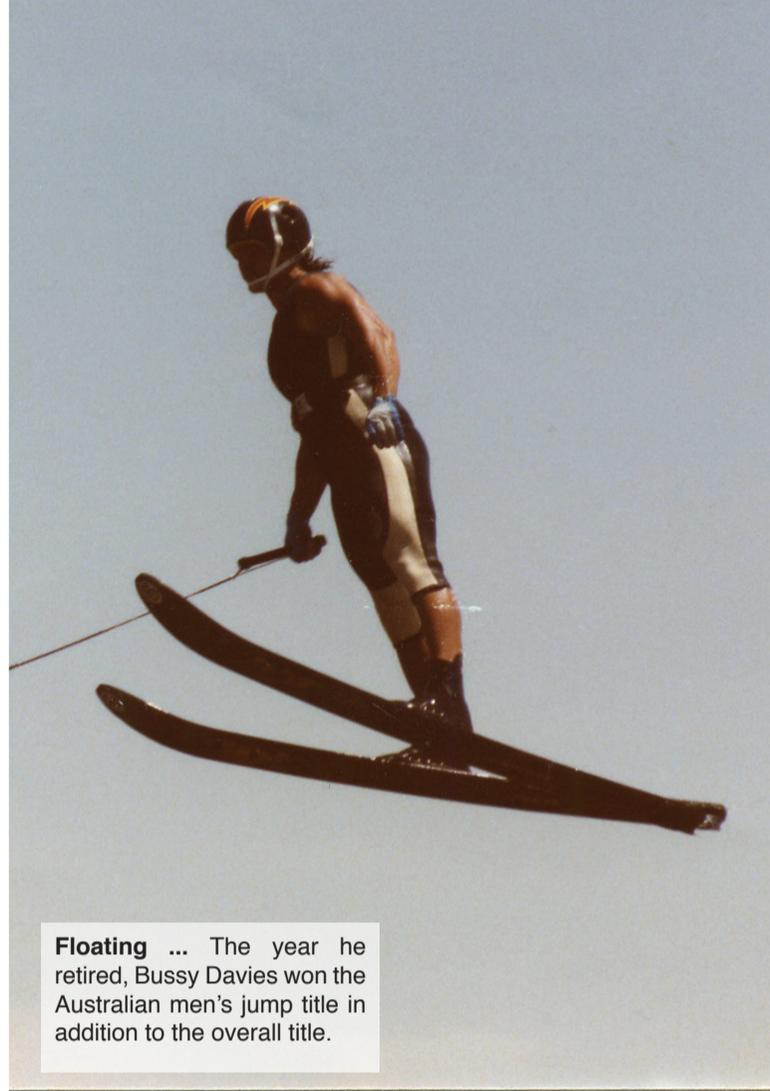
"I was never sitting at home, I was always doing something."

Despite his success on the water, and all of the hard work he put into it, Bussy, who won four best and fairests

LOCAL SPORTING LEGENDS



At home on the river ... When he was competing, Bussy trained at Bundalong every weekend - weather permitting or not.



Floating ... The year he retired, Bussy Davies won the Australian men's jump title in addition to the overall title.

at football and five at basketball, said if you'd asked him to choose his favourite sport, he wouldn't have been able to.

"It's hard to say what sport I liked best because playing footy or basketball in the local competition

with your mates and all the people around that you know was great, but I loved skiing too because it's an individual sport and you meet lots of people around Australia and I loved the challenge and feeling of skiing.

"I couldn't say which was my

favourite."

In skiing, Bussy was not only competing against people who had the advantage of training overseas, but also people with much greater resources.

"Most people I skied against were

wealthy people - they were getting new stuff all the time and all my stuff was second hand.

"I suppose it did put me at a bit of a disadvantage but I just worked harder. Don't get me wrong, I'm not knocking it, because they were all very nice people and I still have good comradeship with all of them."

Whilst Bussy didn't have all the latest gear, he did have something that the top skiers needed when they came to Victoria for the Moomba tournament - the perfect place to train.

He used that to his advantage.

"I was very lucky in that I had a lot of world champions come and ski at my practice site at Bundalong," he said.

"Mike Hazelwood, who was three times world champion, Sammy Duvall - two times world champion - I had champions from France, Israel, all over the place, come to train because I had my own slalom course and jump there.

"They'd come and train with me, and before Moomba I'd take a week's holiday and go up there and I learned a lot from those people. In that one week I could learn a hell of a lot just from watching them and then I'd work it out after they left."

In those days, the jumps and tricks that are so well established now were just being invented, and the spirit of working it out for yourself was very much part of skiing culture.

"When I started doing flips and stuff like that was when they first started, so we were teaching ourselves. I never thought much about it at the time, but I suppose we were doing things that nobody else had ever done.

"In 1986 I was the second person to do a flip at the Australian titles - the bloke before me beat me. It was all brand new then.

"I was used to it, but it was a challenge - it was something new and special and I loved it.

Though the sport is vastly different now, Bussy loves seeing how far it's come.

"Everything's changed now. The equipment has changed, the dynamics

of the sport have changed, so they're doing things now we couldn't have done then and I think that's great.

"They're jumping further, they do double flips now and we never did that - people watching it don't realise how difficult it is because those people make it look easy. I watch it on TV and I love it."

Whilst he was still competing, Bussy also ran the Victorian ski school and two Australian ski schools, as well as an international ski school.

"I kept the international school going for a year after I retired and I had Korean, French and Japanese students," he said.

"When I retired I got out of that inner circle and I thought I needed to break away, otherwise I'd keep going - I had to have a clean break so I closed the school.

"I love teaching, I wish I had taken the chance financially when I was younger and opened a ski school in Queensland to teach all year round, but you can't look back."

Retiring from competing and teaching by no means signified a retirement from skiing, and Bussy and his family still spend as much time at Bundalong as they can.

"I still slalom and do tricks, but I haven't jumped for a lot of years now," he said.

"Some of the blokes who were old when I was skiing are still skiing and there's a bloke I know in his 70s who is still doing tricks. I hope I'm still flipping when I'm 70."

To this day, there is no better feeling for Bussy than being on, or behind, a boat going very fast.

"People say I've always got a smile on my face when I'm on the boat and it's true. I love it.

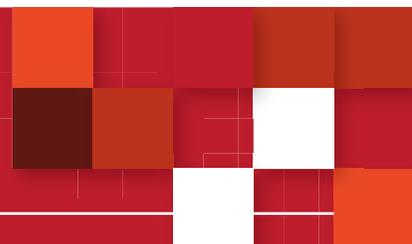
"I loved competing, but I'm not sorry I gave it away when I did.

"I got a lot of satisfaction from it because I know what I can do - I can push myself a long way.

"In what I did, I achieved everything I wanted to achieve - I think I got the most out of myself, and I'm happy with that."



Heyday ... When Bussy wasn't skiing as a young man he was playing footy or basketball. laying footy or basketball.



Going out on top for family



MARK 'Bussy' Davies was at the top of his game when he retired from competitive water-skiing in 1986, having just won the national men's title for the third time, but he has no regrets... Story page 18

Helen gives girls a lesson

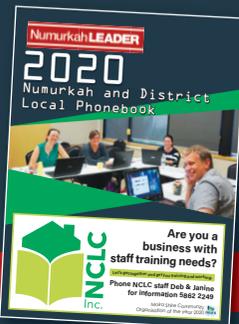
By "The Shankster"
HELEN Pickersgill blitzed the Numurkah women's golf field last Wednesday when she came in with an almost unbelievable score of 46 points for just 18 holes, finishing an incredible 12 points ahead of the next best score recorded on the day. Helen has only been back playing golf for a couple of years, and doesn't get in too much golf over the summer due to her bowls commitments, but obviously the enforced break from the game has

done good things for her game. There was daylight between Helen and another bowler, Jan Niven, who finished runner-up in division two with 33 points. Robyn Hodgkin scored 34 points to win division one, and Julie Daniel stood tall for the non-bowlers, taking the runner-up voucher with 30 points. Balls went to Kath Hepworth with 32 points, Margot McGrath, Lorraine Craig and Di Davies with 30 points, Nola Dalton on 29, and

Felicity Booth took the last ball, winning a countback on 28 points. Nola Dalton is never long out of the winners' list and, after winning a ball with just 29 points on Wednesday, she put her best forward on Saturday, playing a very consistent round of golf to win the day with 37 points. Robyn Hodgkin finished second with 35 points, and Julie Daniel was again amongst the balls, with 34 points. Helen Schmedje, Gayle Smith and Jenny Smith followed, all

with 31 points, and Felicity Booth again took home the last ball, this time with 30 points. The women's match committee met on Monday evening to set a new syllabus. Today we will be playing a stableford round, and next Wednesday we will play the April monthly medal round. While the Saturday nett championship will begin on Saturday, June 20, the women's championship event will not start until Wednesday, July 1. All three rounds of the

championship will be played on Wednesday this year. Contrary to what I stated in last week's report, there will not be a Saturday singles knockout for the women, this decision being made when the original syllabus was put together. Saturday will be the first of two qualifying rounds for the Jack Roche fourball knockout. The timesheet is filling up fast, so make sure you have a partner organised and get your names in.



2020 Numurkah and District Local Phonebook

IN NEXT WEEKS EDITION

NumurkahLEADER